

Appendix

Suggested Reading

Mid-Decade Strategic Plan

BEA has published the following articles in the SURVEY OF CURRENT BUSINESS on the development and implementation of its strategic plan for improving the accuracy, reliability, and relevance of the national, regional, and international accounts.

“Mid-Decade Strategic Review of BEA’s Economic Accounts: Maintaining and Improving Their Performance” (February 1995)

“Mid-Decade Strategic Review of BEA’s Economic Accounts: An Update” (April 1995)

“BEA’s Mid-Decade Strategic Plan: A Progress Report” (June 1996)

Mid-Decade Strategic Review of BEA’s Economic Accounts: Background Papers (1995) presents seven background papers that evaluate the state of the U.S. economic accounts and that identify the problems and the prospects for improving the accounts.

Methodology

BEA has published a wealth of information about the methodology used to prepare its national, regional, and international estimates.

National

National income and product accounts (NIPA’s)

NIPA Methodology Papers: This series documents the conceptual framework of the NIPA’s and the methodology used to prepare the estimates.

An Introduction to National Economic Accounting (NIPA Methodology Paper No. 1, 1985) [Also appeared in the March 1985 issue of the SURVEY]

Corporate Profits: Profits Before Tax, Profits Tax Liability, and Dividends (NIPA Methodology Paper No. 2, 1985)

Foreign Transactions (NIPA Methodology Paper No. 3, 1987) [Revised version forthcoming]

GNP: An Overview of Source Data and Estimating Methods (NIPA Methodology Paper No. 4, 1987) [Largely superseded by “A Guide to the NIPA’s” (March 1998 SURVEY)]

Government Transactions (NIPA Methodology Paper No. 5, 1988)

Personal Consumption Expenditures (NIPA Methodology Paper No. 6, 1990)

The methodologies described in these papers are subject to periodic improvements that are typically introduced as part of the annual and comprehensive revisions of the NIPA’s; these improvements are

described in the SURVEY articles that cover these revisions.

“Annual Revision of the U.S. National Income and Product Accounts”: This series of SURVEY articles, the latest of which was published in the August 1998 issue, describes the annual NIPA revisions and the improvements in methodology.

“A Preview of the 1999 Comprehensive Revision of the National Income and Product Accounts”: This series of SURVEY articles describes the major changes incorporated in the recent comprehensive revision of the NIPA’s.

“Definitional and Classificational Changes” (August 1999)

“New and Redesigned Tables” (September 1999)

“Statistical Changes” (October 1999)

“A Guide to the NIPA’s” (March 1998 SURVEY) provides the definitions of the major NIPA aggregates and components; discusses the measures of real output and prices; explains how production is classified and how the NIPA’s are presented; describes the statistical conventions that are used; and lists the principal source data and methods used to prepare the estimates of gross domestic product (GDP).

Information on the sources and methods used to prepare the national estimates of personal income, which provide the basis for the State estimates of personal income, can be found in *State Personal Income, 1929–93* (1995).

“Gross Domestic Product as a Measure of U.S. Production” (August 1991 SURVEY) briefly explains the difference between GDP and gross national product.

“BEA’s Chain Indexes, Time Series, and Measures of Long-Term Economic Growth” (May 1997) is the most recent in a series of SURVEY articles that describe the conceptual basis for the chain-type measures of real output and prices used in the NIPA’s.

“Reliability of the Quarterly and Annual Estimates of GDP and Gross Domestic Income” (December 1998

Availability

Most of the items listed here are available on BEA’s Web site at <www.bea.doc.gov>. In addition, see the *BEA Catalog of Products* for the availability of printed publications. The *Catalog* is available on BEA’s Web site; a printed copy can be obtained by writing to the Public Information Office, BE-53, Bureau of Economic Analysis, U.S. Department of Commerce, Washington, DC 20230, or by calling 202-606-9900.

SURVEY) evaluates the reliability of these estimates by examining the record of revisions to them.

Wealth and related estimates

Fixed Reproducible Tangible Wealth in the United States, 1929–94 (1999) discusses the conceptual and statistical considerations underlying the BEA wealth estimates and explains the derivation of the estimates.

Gross product by industry

“Improved Estimates of Gross Product by Industry, 1959–94” (August 1996 SURVEY) describes the most recent comprehensive revision of the estimates of gross product by industry.

“Gross Product by Industry, 1947–96” (November 1997 SURVEY) and “Gross Product by Industry, 1995–97” (November 1998 SURVEY) present the most recent revisions to the estimates of gross product by industry and briefly describe changes in methodology.

Input-output accounts

“Benchmark Input-Output Accounts for the U.S. Economy, 1992” (November 1997 SURVEY) describes the preparation of the 1992 input-output accounts and the concepts and methods underlying the U.S. input-output accounts.

Satellite accounts

Satellite accounts that extend the analytical capacity of the national accounts by focusing on a particular aspect of activity are presented in the following SURVEY articles.

“Integrated Economic and Environmental Satellite Accounts” and “Accounting for Mineral Resources: Issues and BEA’s Initial Estimates” (April 1994)

“A Satellite Account for Research and Development” (November 1994)

“U.S. Transportation Satellite Accounts for 1992” (April 1998)

“U.S. Travel and Tourism Satellite Accounts for 1992” (July 1998)

International

International transactions accounts (ITA’s)

The Balance of Payments of the United States: Concepts, Data Sources, and Estimating Procedures (1990) describes the methodologies used in preparing the estimates in the ITA’s and of the international investment position of the United States. These methodologies are subject to periodic improvements that are typically introduced as part of the annual revisions of the ITA’s.

“U.S. International Transactions, Revised Estimates”: This series of SURVEY articles, the latest of which was published in the July 1999 issue, describes

the annual ITA revisions and the improvements in methodology.

Direct investment

International Direct Investment: Studies by the Bureau of Economic Analysis (1999) presents a collection of previously published studies on U.S. direct investment abroad and foreign direct investment in the United States. In addition, it includes the following guides to BEA’s statistics and methodologies used to prepare the estimates.

“Methodology for U.S. Direct Investment Abroad” (*U.S. Direct Investment Abroad: 1994 Benchmark Survey, Final Results* (1998))

“A Guide to BEA Statistics on U.S. Multinational Companies” (March 1995 SURVEY)

“Methodology for Foreign Direct Investment in the United States” (*Foreign Direct Investment in the United States: 1992 Benchmark Survey, Final Results* (1995))

“A Guide to BEA Statistics on Foreign Direct Investment in the United States” (February 1990 SURVEY)

Surveys of international services

U.S. International Transactions in Private Services: A Guide to the Surveys Conducted by the Bureau of Economic Analysis (1998) provides information on the 11 surveys that BEA conducts on these transactions—including classifications, definitions, release schedules, and methods used to prepare the estimates—and samples of the survey forms.

Regional

Personal income

State Personal Income, 1929–97 (1999) includes a description of the methodology used to prepare the estimates of State personal income. [Also available on the CD-ROM *State Personal Income, 1929–97*]

Local Area Personal Income, 1969–92 (1994) includes a description of the methodology used to prepare the estimates of local area personal income. [Also available on the CD-ROM *Regional Economic Information System, 1969–97*]

Gross state product

“Comprehensive Revision of Gross State Product by Industry, 1977–94” (June 1997 SURVEY) summarizes the sources and methods for BEA’s estimates of gross state product.

“Gross State Product by Industry, 1977–96” (June 1998 SURVEY) and “Gross State Product by Industry, 1995–97” (June 1999 SURVEY) present the most recent revisions to the estimates of gross state product by industry and briefly describe changes in methodology. 